

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 170853

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TO AMEMBASSY PARIS PRIORITY

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C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 170853

EXCON

E.O. 11652:XDS

TAGS: ESTC

SUBJECT:SWISS PROPOSAL TO APPLY A SIMPLIFIED PROCEDURE

REFERENCE: COCOM DOC CONTR. (76) 1 B AND FF

1. THE US DEL IS REQUESTED TO INFORM THE CHAIRMAN THAT THE UNITED STATES HAS NOT BEEN APPROACHED BY THE SWISS AUTHORITIES WITH A VIEW TO CONCLUDING A GENERAL AGREEMENT PERMITTING THE REEXPORT TO A THIRD COUNTRY (EXCLUDING THE EASTERN COUNTRIES) OF STRATEGIC COMMODITIES IMPORTED INTO SWITZERLAND FROM THE UNITED STATES.

2. MOREOVER, THE FACT THAT SUCH AGREEMENT IS UNDER CONSIDERATION, OR HAS ALREADY BEEN CONSUMMATED, BY OTHER PC'S CAUSES THE US EXPORT AUTHORITIES CONSIDERABLE CONCERN BECAUSE OF THE POSSIBILITY OF EROSION OF CONTROLS. FIRST, THE ULTIMATE RESPONSIBILITY FOR SURVEILLANCE OVER COCOM GOODS PASSES FROM A PC TO, FIRST SWITZERLAND WHICH IS NOT CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 STATE 170853

A PC ALTHOUGH A COOPERATING COUNTRY, AND THEN TO A THIRD

COUNTRY, WHICH, IF NOT A PC, HAS EVEN LESS INTEREST IN MAINTAINING THE INTEGRITY OF THE COCOM STRUCTURE. MOREOVER, IT IS UNDERSTOOD THAT WITHOUT HAVING RECEIVED A SWISS BLUE IMPORT CERTIFICATE, A PC CANNOT ASSURE ITSELF THAT THE EXPORT WILL REMAIN IN SWITZERLAND AND MAY NOT BE ABLE TO OBTAIN THE COOPERATION OF SWISS AUTHORITIES IN TRACING A SHIPMENT THAT ENTERED SWITZERLAND. IT IS NOT CLEAR FROM THE REFERENCED DOCUMENTS WHETHER THE SWISS BLUE IMPORT CERTIFICATE IS NO LONGER REQUIRED BY THE BELGIAN AUTHORITIES OR WHETHER ITS GUARANTEE HAS BEEN MODIFIED TO INCLUDE REEXPORTS. THIS ASPECT OF THE TRADITIONAL COOPERATION FROM SWITZERLAND NEEDS CLARIFICATION. FINALLY, RECENT EXPERIENCE OF THE US REGARDING CERTAIN SHIPMENTS FROM SWITZERLAND OF COCOM GOODS OF SWISS ORIGIN SUGGEST THAT THERE IS SOME DIFFERENCE OF OPINION IN WHAT GOODS ACTUALLY HAVE COCOM COVERAGE. FYI THE RELEGATION OF CONTROL RESPONSIBILITIES TO SWITZERLAND, AND THE POSSIBLE LOSS OF PROTECTION FOR STRATEGIC GOODS, IS DEPLORABLE ENOUGH FOR BELGIAN COMMODITIES PROCEEDING TO SWITZERLAND AND THEN TO A THIRD COUNTRY, BUT IF THE AGREEMENT ALSO COVERS THE REEXPORT OF US GOODS FROM BELGIUM TO SWITZERLAND TO THE THIRD COUNTRY, THE US WOULD BE PARTICULARLY CONCERNED. END
FYI

3. WE BELIEVE THAT BEFORE ANY FURTHER ACTION IS TAKEN ON THE PENDING REQUEST BEFORE THE BELGIAN AUTHORITIES, A REVIEW OF THE VARIOUS PROBLEMS INVOLVED SHOULD BE PLACED ON THE AGENDA FOR THE UPCOMING SUBCOMMITTEE MEETING. KISSINGER

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